



April 22, 2002

The Honorable Carole Migden
Member of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblymember Migden:

**SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 2811
(AS AMENDED APRIL 1, 2002)
LOCATION: ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HEARING: April 24, 2002**

I am pleased to inform you that the California Children and Families Commission (Commission) supports AB 2811, which would extend the federally funded Child Development Teacher and Supervisor Grant program indefinitely by repealing the sunset date of June 30, 2002.

The Child Development Teacher and Supervisor Grant program is an invaluable incentive to attract students into the child care and development field. The Student Aid Commission, the administrator of the Grant program, reports that the number of applications and awards for the Child Development Teacher and Supervisor Grant program have steadily increased since its inception in fiscal year 1998-1999. The Grant Program is a critical conduit that aids in significantly increasing the number of child care workers and teachers desperately needed throughout the state who are equipped to provide appropriate school readiness services to children ages 0-5.

The Commission is committed to programs that enhance school readiness and AB 2811 is complimentary to our overarching goal of ensuring that children are ready to enter school. Quality child care and preschool programs can be foundational to a child's school readiness. Moreover, research has shown that retaining skilled and dedicated child development professionals is the cornerstone of quality child care. Lack of stability in the child care workforce has a detrimental effect on the quality of programs and on young children during a critical stage of their development. Recognizing this importance, the Commission initiated a Matching Funds for Retention Incentives pilot project that aims to address high staff turnover in the field by providing incentives for early childhood educators to remain in the field and to advance their education and professional development. Clearly, attracting professionals to the field of child care is the first step and that is what AB 2811 will do by providing the education grants.

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If you have any questions regarding the Commission's position on AB 2811, please do not hesitate to contact me or Patti Huston, Chief of Legislative and Governmental Affairs, at (916) 323-0056.

Sincerely,



Jane I. Henderson, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee

Danny Alvarez, Consultant to the Chair,
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114

Russell Lowery, Legislative Director for
Assemblymember Patricia Bates
State Capitol Room 6031